(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Scheduled helicopter services are not being operated by any airline/operator in any part of the country, including the North-Eastern Region. However, State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya have obtained the services of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) for providing helicopters on charter basis.

(c) PHHL has sent proposals to State Governments of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and Assam for providing helicopter services on long-term lease basis and their responses are awaited.

Dereservation of Posts of Assistant Manager

2280. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 27 Senior Superintendent (Aerodrome) who had completed five years of service were eligible for promotion as AM(ATC); if so, the reasons for dereserving 15 posts of Assistant Manager during 2000;

(b) the number of Senior Superintendent (Aerodrome) sent to Allahabad for training for promotion and the number of them belonging to SC/ST; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that SC/ST Senior Superintendents get promotion in time avoiding any backlog?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) 27 Senior Superintendent (Aerodrome) had completed 5 years of service but they had not undergone the ADC/Approach Control Course required for promotion as per the Recruitment and Promotion rules. Therefore, they were not eligible for promotion as Assistant Manager (ATC) due to this, 15 posts were got de-reserved to be filled up by the eligible candidates.

(b) 12 Senior Superintendent (Aerodrome) were nominated for training during the year 2000 which included two Scheduled Castes and two Scheduled Tribes.

(c) The candidates are nominated for training as per seniority. However, SC/ST candidates are nominated for training even though they are not senior enough for training.

Violation of IATA Code of Conduct

2281. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Airways had authorised its travel agents to issue tickets for Rs. 18,000 to anywhere in Europe and Rs. 29,000 to any destination in the world under a package valid till 31st March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this had stunned the Air India and other international airways, sending them into a huddle to meet the challenge; and

(c) whether this scheme was in violation to the IATA Code of Conduct; if so, in what respect and what steps were taken by Air India to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The package offered by the British Airways was brought to the notice of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation by Air India. Since this was in violation of the existing norms of approval of international tariffs, British Airways was directed to withdraw the same. This direction was complied with.

Development of Bhopal Airport

2282. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to modernise the airport infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in equipping the airports situated in Madhya Pradesh with modern technology; and

(d) the progress made in development of Bhopal airport for the operations of Airbus 320 class of aircrafts?